

## **Ukraine's prime minister says parliament to convene despite protests, economy to improve**

BY MARIA DANILOVA, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS NOVEMBER 13, 2012 5:50 AM

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Ukraine+prime+minister+says+parliament+convene+despite+protests/7538949/story.html>

KIEV, Ukraine - Ukraine's prime minister said Tuesday that the newly elected parliament will convene as planned even as opposition parties challenge the election results.

The Central Election commission has announced the results for 445 of Parliament's 450 seats and called for a repeat of voting in 5 disputed districts.

According to the results, President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions has retained its majority in parliament, although three pro-Western opposition parties made a strong showing.

The West has called the vote unfair and the opposition has refused to recognize the results and plans to contest them in local and foreign courts.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov told foreign reporters Tuesday that the parliament will begin work in mid-December, while a new voting for of those five disputed districts will take place later.

"A line has been drawn," Azarov said. "The session will open on Dec. 17, lawmakers will take an oath and parliament's formation will start."

He sought to allay concerns about economy, promising that economic growth will resume in the second quarter of next year.

The Ukrainian economy is heading into a recession, on the back of a decreasing global demand for its key export commodity, metals, with no growth this year. The national currency, hryvna, is under a strong pressure, as Ukraine must repay foreign debt and International Monetary Fund lending is frozen.

## **Ukrainian parliamentary election results published in official newspaper**

Nov. 13, 2012, 10:15 a.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/politics/ukrainian-parliamentary-election-results-published-in-official-newspaper-316016.html>



*The results of the parliamentary elections in Ukraine were published on November 13 in the official parliamentary newspapers – Holos Ukrainy.*  
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The results of the parliamentary elections in Ukraine were published on November 13 in the official parliamentary newspapers – Holos Ukrainy.

Under the Law on the Election of People's Deputies of Ukraine, the deadline for the official publication of the parliamentary election results in the Holos Ukrainy and Uriadovy Kurier newspapers is set until November 17, 2012, inclusively.

The October 28, 2012, election was conducted under a mixed system, with 225 MPs elected on party lists and 225 in single-seat constituencies (the election in 2007 was held under a proportional system).

The Central Election Commission announced the results of count of party list ballots on November 10. Winners in single-seat constituencies were declared on November 12.

Overall, 225 deputies have been elected on party lists, including 72 from the Party of Regions, 62 from Batkivschyna, 34 from UDAR, 32 from the Communist Party and 25 from Svoboda.

Two hundred and twenty deputies have been elected in the single-mandate districts, including 113 from the Party of Regions, 39 from Batkivschyna, 12 from Svoboda party, 6 from UDAR, 3 from the United Center, 2 from the People's Party, one each from the Soyuz (Union) party and from the Oleh Liashko's Radical Party, and 43 independent candidates.

In all, 445 deputies have been elected in the single mandate districts and by party lists, including 185 from the Party of Regions, 101 from Batkivschyna, 40 from

UDAR, 37 from Svoboda, 32 from the Communists, 3 from the United Center, 2 from the People's Party, 1 from the Union party, 1 from the Liashko's Radical Party and 43 independent candidates.

The Central Election Commission has announced that repeat elections will be ordered on the Verkhovna Rada's recommendation in the five single-mandate constituencies in Kyiv, Mykolaiv and Cherkasy region, and in Kyiv, where the results could not be established.

### **EU criticizes Ukraine's Oct. 28 parliamentary election**

Nov. 12, 2012, 11 p.m. | Reuters

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/eu-criticizes-ukraines-oct-28-parliamentary-election-316005.html>



*A woman holds a placard bearing pictures of jailed ex-premier Yulia Tymoshenko (R) and jailed opposition leader Yuriy Lutsenko during a rally of the opposition in front of central election commission in Kiev on November 5, 2012. Thousands of Ukrainians massed in central Kiev on November 5 to protest against alleged fraud in parliamentary elections won by the ruling party as the opposition threatened not to recognise the new legislature. At least 2,000 opposition supporters carrying Ukrainian flags gathered outside the headquarters of the central election commission amid a heavy presence of elite Berkut anti-riot police, an AFP correspondent said. AFP PHOTO/ SERGEI SUPINSKY*

© AFP

BRUSSELS, Nov 12 (Reuters) - Ukraine's Oct. 28 parliamentary election was marred by a delayed vote count and other irregularities, the European Union said on Monday.

The criticism by the bloc - which has frozen a trade deal with Ukraine because of concerns over the country's political and justice systems - came a day after final election results showed the ruling party would likely keep its grip on parliament.

President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of the Regions remained the biggest party in the 450-seat parliament, gaining an overall 185 seats, but was thought likely to retain control with support from communists and independents.

"We express our concern about the conduct of the post electoral process, which was marred by irregularities, delays in the vote count and lack of transparency in the electoral commissions," EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton and enlargement commissioner Stefan Fule said in a statement.

The EU comments came on top of earlier criticism of the build-up to the election and the vote itself.

Other problems already identified in a report by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe ranged from biased media coverage to a lack of transparency in financing.

The European Union and Ukraine initialled an agreement in March on greater political and economic integration, including trade, investment and movement of capital.

But the 27 EU governments and the European Parliament have yet to sign the accord because of concern over the former Soviet country's elections, judicial system and arrest of opposition leaders.

The election took place while the country's most prominent opposition leader, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, served a seven-year sentence for abuse of office and awaited a new trial on charges of tax evasion and embezzlement. After opposition rallies complaining of a crooked vote count, election authorities announced a re-vote in five individual electoral districts.

(Reporting By Sebastian Moffett; Editing by Andrew Heavens)

### **EU sees 'deterioration' of Ukraine's elections**

Nov. 12, 2012, 10:08 p.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/eu-sees-deterioration-of-ukraines-elections-316001.html>



*A protestor stands in front of a placard showing Ukraine's jailed former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko during a rally of the opposition in front of the Central Election Commission in Kiev on November 12, 2012. Members of the rally call jailed and hunger-striking former premier Yulia Tymoshenko to stop her hunger strike as she has deteriorated to the point where she can no longer stand up from her hospital bed. AFP PHOTO / SERGEI SUPINSKY © AFP*

Brussels, November 12 (Interfax-Ukraine) - The European Union is concerned about delays in the vote count after the October 28 parliamentary elections in Ukraine and expects "swift and determined action" from Kyiv.

This is stipulated in a joint statement by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission Catherine Ashton, and EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule.

Noting that Brussels has "followed closely the vote count, tabulation and the announcement of the consolidated results," Ashton and Fule said: "We express our concern about the conduct of the post electoral process, which was marred by irregularities, delays in the vote count and lack of transparency in the electoral commissions."

The EU officials said that "this comes in addition to the lack of response to the shortcomings and problems identified already earlier by the OSCE-ODIHR interim reports."

"Taken together, this represents deterioration in several areas compared to standards previously achieved. There can be no complacency about electoral irregularities," they said.

In this regard, Ashton and Fule said that in line with the public commitment to follow-up on electoral complaints made last week by Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, they expected "to see swift and determined action by the government and all other relevant state authorities, including by addressing the inconclusive results in five single-mandate election districts in dialog with all political parties represented in the Verkhovna Rada and by bringing the electoral legislation into line with European norms and standards on the basis of an Election Code."

"The final composition of the Ukrainian parliament must reflect the genuine will of the Ukrainian voters," they said.

The EU representatives said that they remained committed to their engagement with Ukraine towards political association and economic integration.

"This however requires determined action by the Ukrainian government and parliament to consolidate the country's democratic credentials, to pursue the rule of law, to address the consequences of selective justice and to vigorously pursue judicial and other critical reforms," Ashton and Fule said.

### **Delays in Ukraine ballot counting distressing, Canada says**

CBC News

Posted: Nov 12, 2012 12:10 PM ET

Last Updated: Nov 12, 2012 4:06 PM ET

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2012/11/12/pol-ukraine-elections-concerns-mission-canada-baird.html>



*A supporter of the Ukrainian Opposition party carries a poster depicting jailed politician Yulia Tymoshenko at a rally outside the Central Elections Commission building in Kyiv Nov. 6. Ukraine's opposition parties are protesting alleged election fraud in last month's parliamentary election. (Sergei Chuzavkov/Associated Press)*

Canada is expressing its concern as the counting of ballots in Ukraine's recent parliamentary elections drags on.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and International Co-operation Minister Julian Fantino issued a statement Monday calling on election officials and party leaders in Ukraine to ensure that the millions of people who voted Oct. 28 are heard.

"Canada is distressed by the lack of openness, transparency and timeliness that has characterized vote tabulation," the statement said.

"Sadly, this is just the latest in the series of irregularities that has characterized the campaign overall and confirms reports that Ukraine's parliamentary elections did not meet the democratic standard that Ukrainians have the right to expect."

President Viktor Yanukovich's party claimed victory in the parliamentary elections, which were marred from the start by the jailing last year of former premier Yulia Tymoshenko, who finished second to Yanukovich in presidential elections in 2010.

Final election results have not been released.

Canadian observers

Canada sent about 500 observers to monitor the elections. It was the fifth consecutive election in Ukraine to which Canada sent observers.

Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, who headed up Canada's election observer contingent, known as Mission Canada, complained of "worrying signs" the day after the vote.

Andreychuk said she was concerned about a regression in Ukraine's electoral process and in the democratic environment in the country, saying monitors had seen vote buying and campaigning at polling stations, which is a violation of Ukrainian law and international standards, as well as a lack of freedom of the press and for parties other than the governing party.

Mission Canada has already complained of serious problems in the tabulation of votes, including long delays, manipulation of electronic results and counting taking place in "crowded, tense and often terrible conditions."

In a statement released Nov. 2, Mission Canada said its observers had noted cases of pressure and intimidation on elections authorities that, along with the tabulation delays, amounted to "evidence of attempts to purposefully manipulate results, particularly in competitive races" in areas such as Kyiv.

In a speech to Canada's election monitors on the eve of their departure for the country Oct. 26, Prime Minister Stephen Harper pointed to Ukraine's political struggles.

"As our own all-party parliamentary committee recently concluded, and I quote: 'There is serious cause for concern about Ukraine's democratic development and respect for the rule of law,'" Harper said.

"We continue to call upon President Yanukovich to respect judicial independence, to cease the harassment of opposition voices and to conduct an election that is indeed free and fair," he added.

### **Ukraine must provide democratic credentials**

ARTICLE | NOVEMBER 13, 2012 - 9:49AM | BY NEONLINE | ES

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/ukraine-must-provide-democratic-credentials?>



"After our initial statement following 28 October election day in Ukraine, we have followed closely the vote count, tabulation and the announcement of the consolidated results. We express our concern about the conduct of the post electoral process, which was marred by irregularities, delays in the vote count

and lack of transparency in the electoral commissions” stated, yesterday, in a joint statement on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, and Štefan Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy.

On Monday 5 November crowds gathered outside the Central Electoral Commission headquarters in the Ukrainian capital to protest against President Viktor Yanukovich's ruling party. The Ukrainian opposition said that the Party of the Regions rigged the vote and the ruling party stole the votes and register them as their votes. The united opposition parties declared that they might boycott the new government.

The OSCE-ODIHR interim reports detected shortcomings and many problems during the elections. Catherine Ashton and Štefan Füle outlined that electoral irregularities hamper democracy. More specifically, they stressed that the government, the opposition parties and all other relevant state authorities should begin a democratic dialogue. The Ukrainian legislation Election Code must be in line with the European one. “The final composition of the Ukrainian Parliament must reflect the genuine will of the Ukrainian voters”.

Europe will continue to support Ukraine’s political association and economic integration. However the Ukrainian Government and Parliament must first implement all the necessary democratic provisions and reform the juridical and administrative system.

### **OSCE/ODIHR to issue final report on Rada elections in 2 months**

Nov. 13, 2012, 1:51 p.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/politics/osceodihhr-to-issue-final-report-on-rada-elections-in-2-months-316039.html>



*Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) Janez Lenarcic expects that the office will issue a final report on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine two months after the completion of the electoral process.*

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Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) Janez Lenarcic expects that the office will issue a final report on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine two months after the completion of the electoral process.

"In about two months after the completion of the electoral process the OSCE/ODIHR will issue a full and final report, which will include recommendations, in particular the priority ones," Lenarcic said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

He noted that all the OSCE member-countries had undertaken an obligation to promptly respond to the ODIHR's recommendations on elections, and expressed the hope that Ukraine would also be ready for this.

"The OSCE is ready to assist Ukraine in this process," he said.

Lenarcic also said that the statement on the preliminary findings concerning the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, which was made public on October 29 by OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, was based on a collective assessment by more than 800 international observers.

As for the OSCE/ODIHR mission, its observers have worked in Ukraine since September 12, Lenarcic said. The mission was made up of 20 experts from the core monitoring group, 90 long-term and 500 short-term observers.

"The head of the observation mission of the OSCE/ODIHR, Audrey Glover, is the only person authorized to act on behalf of the mission. All other potential statements or opinions are personal opinions or views of those who voice them, and do not represent the views of the Office," Lenarcic said.

After the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, head of the OSCE long-term observer mission Audrey Glover said that there was backsliding in the democratic process in Ukraine and by head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation Walburga Habsburg Douglas said that in order to hear the position of one of the key politicians in the country, one should not have to go to see them in prison.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry responded with a statement that the criticism by Douglas and Glover was their personal opinion and not the conclusion of all the members of the delegation.

"Taking into account the statements of other observers, it becomes clear that the statements by Douglas and Glover are their personal thoughts - groundless and emotional, and not the result of observations of all members of the delegation," the Foreign Ministry's press service said.

## **Ukraine's United Opposition threatens to impeach president**

13/11 00:43 CET

<http://www.euronews.com/2012/11/13/ukraine-s-united-opposition-threatens-to-impeach-president/>



On the same day EU officials described Ukraine's elections as "marred by irregularities" and having a "lack of transparency", United Opposition says it will now focus on impeaching the country's president Viktor Yanukovich.

Criticism of the October 28 poll comes from a statement issued by EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton and Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fuele. United Opposition, which is made up of separate political parties, has warily accepted disputed results that will probably see Yanukovich's party maintain a majority.

The group says it will go to parliament and demand the impeachment of the president, the resignation of the government and release of the political prisoners.

"We clearly stated that we will keep all options open in our fight – parliamentary and non-parliamentary – and we do not exclude the possibility of dissolving Ukraine's parliament," said Arseniy Yatsenyuk, a leader of the United Opposition. In addition to working towards freeing her, United Opposition is urging jailed former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko to end her 15-day hunger strike mounted in protest of October's election.



*Supporters of jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko hold a poster of her as they attend a court hearing in Kharkiv, November 13, 2012. A second trial of Tymoshenko was again adjourned on Tuesday until November 23 because the former prime minister, who is on hunger strike, could not attend.*

*REUTERS/Dmitry Neymyrok*

<http://my.news.yahoo.com/photos/supporters-jailed-opposition-leader-yulia-tymoshenko-attend-court-photo-102249183.html>

## **Leading European Statesmen Call for Steps to Improve Relations Between Europe and Ukraine**

Autor: PR Newswire (engl.)

| 13.11.2012, 14:14 |

PARIS, November 13, 2012 /PRNewswire/ --

<http://www.wallstreet-online.de/nachricht/5046143-leading-european-statesmen-call-for-steps-to-improve-relations-between-europe-and-ukraine>

The recent parliamentary elections in Ukraine were "not perfect but represented huge progress for a country that has only enjoyed independence for the past 20 years," and should not be judged in terms of black and white. This was the conclusion of leading European statesmen, including the former President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski, speaking at a post-election conference in Paris on Monday.

Going forward, the signing of an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union would represent a positive step, but could only come after

compromises are reached and steps taken to improve relations and resolve issues concerning legal cases such as the appeal by Yulia Tymoshenko to the European Court of Human Rights.

This was the consensus emerging from a roundtable entitled "Ukraine: A Strategic Crossroads in Europe" which took place Monday at the Ecole Militaire in Paris in front of an audience of foreign policy experts, academics, diplomats, economists and businessmen.

The European Union cannot be passive in the wake of the Ukrainian parliamentary elections said former President Kwasniewski. "If Europe wants to share its values and standards, it should engage more actively with Ukraine, " he said, adding that Ukraine is still waiting for a clear sign from Europe.

Ukraine ´s Foreign Minister, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, reminded the audience that an ambitious EU-style reform agenda is underway in Ukraine, ranging from pension and labor reforms to new fiscal and criminal procedure codes. He also highlighted the modernisation of the country ´s infrastructure for the Euro 2012 football tournament.

"Ukraine is now firmly set on a strategic pathway to become a prosperous European country and deserves the Association Agreement, " he said. "All our political parties support the perspective of deeper integration with Europe. We want to achieve this for the benefit of the people."

Although the new electoral system - which was drafted following recommendations of the Council of Europe and approved by government and opposition parties - showed some shortfalls, Gryshchenko noted that the vote reflected the "will of the people" and was widely deemed free, calm and legitimate by international observers.

Former Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer noted that thanks to its geographical location, shale gas deposits, energy transit infrastructure and vast agricultural resources, Ukraine represents a broader economic and strategic opportunity for Europe. "It would be wrong if we view the situation in the Ukraine only through the prism of the Tymoshenko case, " he said.

Kwasniewski, who is currently serving as co-head of the European Parliament ´s Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, explained that, in his opinion, there is a legal, political and psychological aspect to the case of Yulia Tymoshenko, who was convicted last year for abuse of office for illegally signing a controversial \$10 billion gas deal with Russia in 2009 without Cabinet approval.

He pointed out that the case is now with the European Court of Human Rights and credited Kiev for declaring that Ukraine would accept its decision.

Gryshchenko reiterated this: "We have clearly stated that whatever will be the decision by the ECHR, we will comply by it."

In conclusion, Herve Maurey, French senator and a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Association with Ukraine said that in France many politicians want the Association Agreement to be signed. "We look forward to when Ukraine will be deeply rooted in the EU, rather than moving into the other direction, " he said.